Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO USINFO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8294

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 1142

USINFO FOR IAA, IOR/M, IPS AND IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF JULY 4 AND MEDIA REACTION

1. THE JULY 4 CELEBRATION OF BICENTENNIAL WAS REPORTED IN INDEPENDENT DAILY MADAGASCAR MATIN, AS WELL AS IN SEVERAL INDEPENDENT MALAGASY-LAN-GUAGE JOURNALS. COVERAGE FOCUSSED ON LOCAL EMBASSY FETE. HOWEVER LOCAL MALAGASY PAPER VAVOLOMBELONA (WEEKLY WITH CIRCULATION OF 4,000) SPONSORED BY SEVERAL CHURCHES, EDITORIALIZED ABOUT BICENTENNIAL ON FRONT PAGE, ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTO OF STATUE OF LIBERTY. IT BEGAN BY NOTING U.S. HAD REPUTATION OF BEING CAPITALISTIC AND EVEN IMPERIALISTIC BECAUSE IT WAS ECONOMICALLY STRONG, WHILE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED "THE COUNTRY OF LIBERTY".

2. EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "ONE IS ALSO AWARE, HOW-EVER, THAT SEGREGATION EXISTS IN CERTAIN STATES, BUT NOT IN ALL THE STATES, WHICH CAUSED MARTIN LUTHER KING TO FIGHT. EQUALITY OF LAW BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES TENDS TO PREVAIL MORE AND MORE, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT YET PERFECT. BUT ONE QUESTION WE ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE ANSWERED IS: "WHEN WILL THE USA BE ABLE TO HAVE A BLACK PRESIDENT?".

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Message Attributes

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